

REBECCA S. STANDRING

Biography from the Lehi Centennial History

Rebecca Smith Standring, the wife of Edwin Standring, was born in North Hampton, North Hampshire, England, February 20, 1828. She was the daughter of William Smith and Charlotte Ford, being the fourth child in a family of ten children.

It can truthfully be said of Mrs. Standring that she forsook all for the gospel's sake, for having accepted the doctrines as taught by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in company with two sisters, she emigrated to America in 1855, leaving a husband who afterward followed her to Salt Lake City, and tried to persuade her to return to England with him.

During her stay in Salt Lake City, she lived with the mother of Apostle Anthony Ivins and in the "Move" went south with the Saints. After the people returned to their homes, she came to Lehi to visit her sister and met Edwin Standring to whom she was married June 3, 1859, by James W. Taylor.

Mrs. Standring was refined and cultured, with queenly dignity, a natural leader and endowed with good practical sense. Being deprived of the privilege of motherhood, she took a prominent part in the public affairs of the community. During the early sixties she was one of the leading stars in the pioneer Home Dramatic Association and when the Sunday School was organized in 1866 she was the first lady teacher called to aid in this noble work.

For thirty years she was one of the most prompt and efficient teachers in the school until compelled by stress of other duties to resign. For a number of years she was stake aid in the Primary Association in the old Utah Stake and has labored for three months in each of the following temples: St. George, Manti, and Salt Lake.

At the organization of the Relief Society in Lehi, October 28, 1868, she was chosen secretary and served in this capacity until the resignation of President Sarah Coleman, October 2, 1879, when she was selected as the president of the society. On July 28, 1901, the well merited honor of presiding over the Relief Societies of the Alpine Stake was conferred upon her by the Stake Presidency. She faithfully performed the duties of this responsible calling until October 26, 1913, when through age and ill health she was honorably released.

In the Relief Society Mrs. Standring found ample scope for her talents as leader, and spiritual advisor and through her wise management the organization was brought to a high point of efficiency. Her works will long be held in grateful remembrance by her devoted sisters.